

tree. For the last three years they have fruited profusely. *Pollock* is by far the better of the two and is, to my mind, the best avocado I know of."

Mr. Frank N. Meyer writes from Kingmen, Hupeh, China, September 27, 1917:

"To get exact temperatures of places here in central China where the Tung oil tree occurs, is a very hard matter. Around here in Kingmen, there are several trees and last winter the ice was 7 to 8 inches thick. Mr. Joel S. Johnson, a Swedish-American missionary here, estimates that it probably was 10° above zero for several nights this past winter. In the mountains, however, it must have been zero and yet, even there one finds Tung oil trees. Of course, we here in China do not have cold waves like America experiences them. Temperatures rise and fall very gradually. It is the sudden falls of the mercury that do the damage.

"I'll try to get more information regarding quality of oil from various localities. Strange, that Californian oil indicated adulteration. Could a semi-arid, subtropical climate produce that effect? Here is what I have found out; climate makes or destroys a race; after climate, soil influences most; after soil surrounding influences come and last of all the original stock tells.

"Your statement that out of Tung oil a valuable rubber-substitute is made, brings up an interesting point which I have not told you yet. This is the thing:

"After I had given a lecture in the church of the missionary community at Mokanshan, Chekiang Province, in July, 1915, a number of people came around me and told me various experiences. One missionary from South Chekiang informed me that once having been out in the country he had his long rubber boots with him for many weeks. Upon coming back these boots had been packed up roughly and deposited somewhere and forgotten. After many months' lapse this missionary found them and he discovered to his dismay that they had bad cracks in them just above the ankles. Just as he was intending to cut them off, so as to save the nether parts for goloshes, his servant said to him, 'Don't do this, I can have them repaired for you!' 'Well, the missionary said, 'even we white folks do not know how to repair rubber boots so that they are reliable, so how could Chinese do it who haven't even got rubber?' But he allowed his man to have them re-